



PHILIP D. GRECO
NUMISMATIST

Specializing in Colonial and Early American private, state and federal coins, tokens and medals

POST OFFICE Box 74

SOMERVILLE 44, MASSACHUSETTS



September 26, 1961

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Ave.
St. Louis 5, Missouri

Dear Mr. Newman:

Sorry for such a long delay in writing. The information on the EB counterstamp is as follows: struck on a 1788 Mass. cent, variety 12-M; EB located within two horizontal parallel lines with the sides V shaped, the base pointing inward, and the top of the uprights connected to the lines. There is a period just below the crosspiece of the E.

I have sent the piece to one collector who is interested in this series. Comments gave a doubtful origin to the piece. Supposedly, it came from the same collection as did the specimen in the Bolender reference. I have photographed the piece, and will send prints as soon as I develop the film.

Dave Bowers mentioned some time ago to write you concerning the Mass. copper series. As you probably know, Dave has been collecting information on this series for a future publication. Several months ago, he loaned me all he had for organization and accuracy. Together with my notes, I believe I have the complete listing of all the known dies and combinations. I have styled the work after that of Sheldon's. All that is left for me to do is to check several major collections for condition census pieces.

However, I have spent most of my time on the technical points of this series, and unfortunately spent too little time with its' history. Therefore, if you would like to contribute by the way of a treatise of the history of the Mass. mint, its' workmen, etc., contact Dave and inform him of such, as he is going to publish the work. Also, if you decide to go ahead advise me, as I have some notes which will probably be of some use.



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Ned Barnsley mentions that you are trying to complete a set of photographic plates for the Conn. series. I know that Al Hoch started a similar project but since I have not seen him lately, I don't know how far he has progressed.

Anyhow, Ned mentioned that it would be much simpler if the interested parties could get together on the project. I hope to be in contact with Al soon, so I will find out what he thinks of co-operation. If you should have any ideas on this subject, I would be interested.

Also, if you should be in need of various information on the early series, make a note of it, and I shall try to forward any that I have or any that I might come into.

Very sincerely,

October 3, 1961

Mr. Philip D. Greco
P.O.Box 74
Somerville 44, Mass.

Dear Mr. Greco:

With respect to the Massachusetts copper series, the history is rather well known as it is published in Crosby and unless there is something really new it would not be proper to republish it all in detail. I have some notations which are new material but to do the job properly, the Boston papers during the period must be read. I cannot tackle this job at this time because I am working on too many books at once but will gladly go over any historical text. There is entirely too much emphasis on die varieties as opposed to historical background.

The principal thing to be pointed out with respect to Massachusetts coinage is the fact that they were the only state which followed the October, 1786 resolution of the Continental Congress making the cent the denomination of coinage and providing for the amount of copper, etc. If the matter progresses and you need my help I always stand ready.

I appreciate your offer to help me and I look forward to meeting you whenever that is possible.

Sincerely yours,

EPN/atb

10/3/61

I am looking forward to the picture of the EB counterstamp on the 1788 Mass. cent variety 12-M.

The counterstamp on the Bolender piece is not genuine and I presume your counterstamp isn't either but it is essential for me to see the pictures.

From the desk of
ERIC P. NEWMAN

As far as the Connecticut project is concerned, there will be complete cooperation between Al, Ned, myself, and others.

From the desk of
ERIC P. NEWMAN



PHILIP D. GRECO
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POST OFFICE BOX 74

SOMERVILLE 44, MASSACHUSETTS



10/26/61

Dear Mr. Newman,

Have finally developed the film containing the EB punch on the Mass cent. Unfortunately, the enlargement is not too sharp as the hypo solution was weak. However, the next time I get busy with photography, I shall have better results for you.

Is it possible to purchase a photographic set ofugio cents?

Am glad to hear that there will be co-operation on the Comm. series. If there is anything I am able to forward, please feel free to write.

Sincerely,
Phil Greco

November 9, 1961

Mr. Philip D. Greco
P.O.Box 74
Somerville 44, Mass.

Dear Mr. Greco:

In accordance with your request I am enclosing herewith photographs of the Fugio pieces. There are a few additional ones which are not included but this will save your eyesight.

I thank you for your cooperation with respect to the Massachusetts counterstamped piece and look forward to getting a nice photo of it. Do you have one of the coin as a whole, as it does not have to be blown up as much as the one you sent me. When your new hypo solution is mixed will you send me a better print as you said you would.

As soon as I finish with the book on the 1804 dollar which I am writing I will go back to work on the Connecticut series. Incidentally, the Fugio plates are not to be published in any way as I have the book in preparation on this subject also.

Write me at any time the spirit moves you.

Sincerely yours,

EPN/atb



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POST OFFICE BOX 74

SOMERVILLE 44, MASSACHUSETTS



February 9, 1962

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis 5, Missouri

Dear Mr. Newman,

Enclosed please find a copy of the Brasher Doubloon, the first piece of the Heritage Series. Knowing that you are studying Brasher's works, and lacking any pertinent information to send you, please accept this token of appreciation for your past help with the Fugio Plates, and the information on the Brasher counterstamps.

As studies allow me little time for Numismatics, I have done practically nothing in the past few months. However, I don't hope this gives the impression of disinterest, as I am quite serious with this field, and as I mentioned before, any and all information that I do receive will be forwarded.

I hope to get a letter off to you in a week or two on the Massachusetts patterns. Should you have any various information on hand, I would be glad to hear from you in the meanwhile.

Very Sincerely,

Philip D. Greco

February 13, 1962

Mr. Philip D. Greco
P.O.Box 74
Somerville 44, Mass.

Dear Mr. Greco:

I shall be glad to give you any information I have on the Massachusetts patterns as soon as you send me the data which you have. I will have to check through my files but cannot do so this week or next.

It was nice for you to send me the Brasher fake. I hope you did not buy it. It is going into my fake box and I do not believe morally in the principal of acquiring fakes by purchase as that is encouraging their production. If anyone gives them to me that is different. How do you feel about it? I think the Bashlow and similar incidents are the final result of loose principles.

Sincerely yours,

Eric P. Newman, President
ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPN/atb

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

March 5, 1962

Mr. Philip D. Greco
P.O.Box 74
Somerville, Mass.

Dear Mr. Greco:

Your interesting letter of February 23, 1962 is acknowledged and thank you for the photographs. Our notes have been checked on the pieces in question and some of the following references, all of which may be well known to you already, may be of help:

Frontispiece in Crosby
Catalogue of ANS exhibition 1944, p.22; Plate 12
Storer, Num. of Mass. p. 183, Plate V
AJN Oct. 1875 Vol. X, p. 35
Numismatist, June, 1911, Vol. 24, p. 228
Colburn Sale, 4/28/63, by Woodward
Parsons Sale, 6/24/44 by Chapman, #98
CCJ, Jan.1939
CCJ, Mar. 1888
John K. Curtis Sale, 11/23/1860 (NEW ENGLAND)

I must comment that in my opinion the 1 c LM must be 1 d LM. It must be pence to refer to lawful money and cannot be cent. Cents were not thought of at that time and the 1/2d pattern shows how illogical the cent assumption is.

You asked what caused the rim like impression above the heads on the Janus coin. I have been studying this type of condition in connection with the book I just completed on the 1804 dollar. The diameter of the die and the diameter of the planchet were not carefully coordinated. The die should have been larger than the planchet so that normal radial expansion could take place. However the planchets were often too large or sometimes placed off center, in either case the die circumference would be inside the edge of the coin in some parts. Thus I believe the die left the rim you speak of because the die depressed the inside area but not the outside area. At that time a die was not beveled to produce a raised rim.

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THROUGH RESEARCH AND EXHIBITION
OF COINS, CURRENCY AND HISTORIC OBJECTS

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

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March 5, 1962

Mr. Philip D. Greco

As far as the eagle and shield item I think your real problem is to show it had something to do with Massachusetts or even coinage. The association with proofs of Continental Paper Money by Paul Revere is impossible. Paul Revere never made any Continental paper money (only Mass. State issues) and no Continental paper money was engraved (except counterfeits). No Continental paper money was printed in New England in any event. It was all from set type and cuts and Revere was an engraver and smith. I will give you more detail on this if you wish.

As to DEFENSEOR LIBERTATIS I believe you should review whether the RN is part of the undertype HIBERNIA of an Irish halfpenny and not part of the legend of the Mass. coin. Check this with the obverse which also seems to have Georgius II or Georgius III letters or design portions remaining.

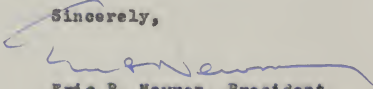
As to the transposed Mass. copper the following notes were located:

W.C. Eaton collection Sale by Chapman 5/7/29 #70
Edwin B. Wight Collection Sale by Woodward 2/24/85 #998
Mickley Sale #2390
Bushnell #778
Farnalee #391
Mills #193
Jackman #90
Jenks #5459

If you have one of the modern copies of the 1776 Mass. cent or the N.H. piece to spare, I'll add them to our research junk but don't buy them for me under any circumstances. The discussion of striking copies will be deferred. I at least made Bashlow change his advertisement on Confederate cent copies.

I hope I have been helpful to you.

Sincerely,


Eric P. Newman, President
ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPN

ath

of foundation

Foundation
Extra copy on pg

Philip D. Greco
P.O. Box 74
Somerville, Mass

Your interest letter of Feb. 23, 1962 is acknowledged and
thank you for the photographs. ~~Our notes have been checked~~
~~on the pieces in question and some of~~
~~the following references, all of which may be well known to~~
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any ^{counterfeit} paper money ~~except~~ (only Mass. ^{state} issues) and no continental paper money ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~printed~~ (except counterfeits). ~~But I have had both~~
No continental paper money was printed in New England in any event. It was
all from set type and cuts and ~~Rever~~ ^{Rever} was an engraver and smith.

As to DEFENSOR HIBERTATIS I believe you
should ~~renew~~ ^{renew} whether the RN is part of the
undertype HIBERNIA of an Irish halfpenny
and not part of the legend of the ^{Mass} coin. Check the spacing on
~~the reverse~~ ^{the reverse}. Check this with the obverse which
also ~~seems to~~ ^{seems to} have ~~George~~ ^{George} III or ~~George~~ ^{George} III letters or design portions
remaining.

As to the transposed Mass Copper ~~I~~ ^{renew}
~~the~~ the following notes were located:

W. C. Eaton Collection Sale by Chapman 5/7/29 # 70

Edmund B. Wright Collection Sale by Woodward 2/24/81 # 998

Mickley Sale # 290

Bushnell # 778

Parmalee # 391

Mills # 193

Jackson # 90

Jenks # 5459

If you have one of the modern copies of the 1776 Mass
Cent ^{for the N.H. piece} ~~it would be a loss to spare~~ I'll add ^{them} ~~it~~
our ~~is~~ ^{is} research junk but don't buy ^{them} ~~for me~~ under
any circumstances. The discussion of striking copies will be
deferred. I at least made Paschlow change his advertisement on
Confederate cent copies. P I hope I have been helpful to you

Sincerely

These Goods Are Sent on Consignment and Approval and the Title in the Consignor Does Not Pass Until They Are Paid For.

408 OLIVE STREET

B. G. JOHNSON, Prop.

TO ST. LOUIS STAMP & COIN CO. Dr.



SM

October 22, 1962

Mr. Philip D. Greco
P.O.Box 7h
Somerville, Mass.

Dear Mr. Greco:

The photographic plates and Table of Coordination covering Massachusetts copper was very welcome and I realize how much work you put in to it. I hope that you are able to give the descriptive material of the individual dies to those to whom the plates were sent pending subsequent publication.

I have put the plates in plastic containers and they will be a permanent part of my library.

Thank you for sending them to me.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

December 10, 1962

Mr. Philip D. Greco
764 Broadway
Somerville 44, Mass.

Dear Phil:

I believe Reverse T and Reverse U
photos in the plates you recently
sent are transposed.

I suggest you recheck all other
photos, also, and notify those
to whom plates were sent in the
event this is an error. Perhaps
you might make a new plate, too.

Sincerely yours,

From the desk of
ERIC P. NEWMAN